

City of Council Bluffs
Missouri River Event of 2011
Employees' Daily Update - June 22, 2011 - 4:20 pm

Our Objective

Ensure Safety of Residents, Responders, Civilians and Guests in our Community

New Items

Chief Alan Byers announced at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday June 22, 2011 that the city of Council Bluffs is at ALERT LEVEL 1. The decision was based on changing conditions to the river, flow rate and weather patterns. He stressed that NO IMMEDIATE THREAT EXISTS, but we continue to prepare in the event of flooding. In addition, NO EVACUATION is ordered at this time.

Level 1 - An unusual or slowly developing event that may impact a levee system or a flood protection system.

US Army Corps of Engineers has announced that the outflow from the Gavin's Point Dam will increase to 160,000 CFS by June 23 or 24 and will continue at this rate until mid August. Their information states that this will raise the river level by as much as 0.7 feet - still below levels originally projected in late May and under the current levee tops.

Rumor Control

Newest Rumor - Big sinkhole developing at I-480 at the river. Response: City engineer staff indicated at 3:30 p.m. he had examined the area and did not find any sinkholes.

Cautionary Notices:

Added traffic on Avenue G and other west end streets due to closure of I-29 has resulted in safety concerns to residents in that area. Traffic enforcement will be stepped up in the area and instances of trees blocking views of stop signs will be addressed by forestry staff.

Alert Level Definitions

Level 1 - An unusual or slowly developing event that may impact a levee system or a flood protection system.

Level 2 - A flood control protection system component or levee is failing or failure may rapidly occur

Level 3 - Imminent failure of a flood control protection system component or levee or a failure is in progress

While No EVACUATION has been ORDERED at this time, conditions may change at any time so residents are reminded to have a personal plan that would be carried out in the event an evacuation is necessary.

Missouri River Statistics

Flood Stage - 29 feet
Current Stage - 34.72 feet - USGS 2:00 p.m. 6/22/2011 (0.23 feet up from yesterday)
Short term NOAA Projected Stage - 34.2 feet on June 27
Flow Rate at Omaha - Council Bluffs - 202,000 CFS 6/22/2011 at 3:00 pm (up 6,000 from yesterday)
Latest Reported Release at Gavin's Point - 150,000 CFS on 6/21 - will rise to 160,000 by 06/24/2011

Levee Statistics

FREEBOARD is defined as the difference in height between the top of the levee and the top of the water in the levee.
Levees are designed to provide a minimum of three to five feet of freeboard, dependent on location.

Volunteer or Assistance Opportunities

While there is no City sponsored sandbag activity along the lines of last week, production is still needed. Those volunteer opportunities can be found out by calling the Volunteer line at 712-325-4736.

Getting the Word Out - Media Contacts

New PIO phone number is 612-741-1065. Be careful when dialing - the area code is 612 - not 712

Alan Byers held a live press conference Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Senator Harkin will be in the EOC and address press on Monday June 27

TV and Radio interviews following Army Corps Gavin's Point announcement last night